GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5015
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2002
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN TEXTLES INDUSTRY
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to lay more meaningful emphasis on the Research and Development to counter the threat from the foreign textile competitors in the new era of W.T.O;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to protect the indigenous textiles industries whose present condition is rather precarious;

(c) the percentage and the total amount at present being spent by the Government on textile research in comparison to other countries of the world;

(d) whether it is less in comparison to other countries of the world;

(e) if so, the steps taken to increase it;

(f) whether the Government propose to encourage exhibition/fashion shows of designed dress material made from indigenous fabrics so as to spread awareness among the people of the country to prefer `made in India` apparel; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) to (g) : To counter the threat from the foreign textile competitors in the new era of W.T.O. the following areas of R&D have been identified:

- Decentralised sector (powerloom, handloom and processing) to be the main target group for R&D.
- R&D in weaving and processing sectors to ensure the production of defect-free cloth and quality finishing for desired quality of end product.
- R&D for improvement in loom productivity.
- R&D in knitting and garmenting technology in view of emerging importance of this sector in the textile industry.
- Production and development of technical textiles.
- Product development.
- Eco-friendly technologies and treatment of effluents, including salt recovery from treated residual effluents.
- Development of technologies and equipment to substitute the imports so as to make them affordable to the domestic industry.
- Cost reduction technology in energy conservation, water conservation, process optimization etc.
- Application of non-conventional energy sources.
- R&D in textile machinery.
- Application of Information Technology.

Department of Science and Technology has provided following information about Government`s expenditure on Research and Development(R&D) and Textile Research during 1996-99:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Years	Total Government expenditure on R&D	Expenditure on R&D in Textiles	Expenditure on R&D in

			Textiles as a percentage of the Total expenditure
1996-97	106443	4769	4.48
1997-98	119120	5189	4.35
1998-99	148267	5459	3.68

Government does not maintain data relating to amount spent on Textile Research in comparison to other countries of the world. Therefore, it is not possible to draw a comparison with other countries. However, Ministry of Textiles have been giving grants-in-aid to Textile Research Associations (TRAs) to carry out research and render consultancy services to the Textile Industry on various aspects of textile technology with a view to reducing the cost and improving the quality and durability of fabrics, reducing pollution, conserving energy and utilizing waste, adopting new technology and improving the technology in the decentralised handloom sector.

Government has established the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) with a view to train professionals in various aspects of the garment industry. NIFT has been organising several exhibitions and fashion shows for promoting Indian fabric and designers in India and abroad.